What is claimed is:

1. A joint prosthesis comprising:

a stem for engagement with a bone, said stem having a surface defining a bore therein;

a joint component having a bearing surface for articulating engagement with an opposing joint component; and

a mounting element having a proximal portion for engagement to said joint component and an articulating portion configured for articulating movement within said bore of said stem.

2. The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said articulating portion defines a spherical bearing surface for contacting said bore to permit movement of said mounting element in multiple degrees of freedom.

3. The joint prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising:

a passageway through said mounting element; and

a fastener configured to pass through said passageway and said bore in said stem, and having an end configured for engagement with the stem.

4. The joint prosthesis of claim 3, wherein:

said articulating portion defines a spherical bearing surface for contacting said bore to permit movement of said mounting element in multiple degrees of freedom;

said passageway defines an internal spherical surface; and

said fastener defines a surface for articulating engagement with said internal spherical surface when said fastener extends through said passageway.

5. The joint prosthesis of claim 3, wherein:

said stem defines a threaded bore within said bore; and

said fastener defines a threaded portion for threaded engagement with said threaded bore.

6. The joint prosthesis of claim 3, wherein said joint component defines an opening for access to said passageway when said joint component is engaged to said proximal portion of said mounting element.

7. The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein said joint component and proximal portion of said mounting element define a socket taper interface for engagement of said joint component to said mounting element.

8. A joint prosthesis comprising:

a stem having a bone engagement portion and a surface facing the mating component of the joint, said surface defining a tapered bore and a threaded bore aligned with said tapered bore;

a head component having a bearing surface for articulation with the mating component of the joint;

a mounting element having a proximal portion configured for engagement with said head component and an articulating portion defining a spherical bearing surface sized to be received within said tapered bore and to form a friction-fit engagement with said bore when said articulating portion is pushed into said bore; and

a screw extending from said mounting element for engagement to said threaded bore when said articulating portion is disposed within said tapered bore.

9. The joint prosthesis of claim 8, wherein:

said mounting element defines a passageway therethrough with a bearing surface at said articulating portion; and

said screw includes an enlarged head sized to prevent its passage through said bearing surface of said passageway, said enlarged head having an underside configured for articulating contact with said bearing surface of said passageway.

10. A method for mounting a joint component to a bone comprising the steps of:

engaging a stem within the bone, the stem including a tapered bore;

providing a mounting element having a proximal portion for engagement to the joint component and an articulating portion;

positioning the articulating portion within the tapered bore so that the mounting element is substantially free to rotate in multiple degrees of freedom relative to the stem;

engaging the joint component to the proximal portion of the mounting element;

manipulating the mounting element to vary the angular position of the joint component relative to the stem; and

pressing the articulating portion into the tapered bore to fix the position of the mounting element relative to the stem.

11. The method for mounting a joint component according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

extending a mechanical fastener through the articulating portion of the mounting element; and

engaging the mechanical fastener to the stem.